

Program Overview

The LDEQ-ESI program will offer opportunities to develop LPDES water discharge permits for major and minor point sources. A permit writer's task is to develop the proper effluent limitations and other requirements that will protect the water quality and still be economically achievable by the permittee. A permit writer must use the state water quality regulations, the Water Quality Management Plan and all other state and federal regulations and guidance to perform this task.

Interns will be assigned water discharge applications to process. This will include a technical review of the application, gathering data from past files, calculating / developing effluent limitations, and drafting water discharge permits and fact sheets.

This program has been developed and sponsored by LDEQ's Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division to allow graduate students the opportunity to complete research/work assignments during a single school year.

Full-time graduate students must apply for a minimum of two consecutive semesters. A minimum of 20 work hours per week will be required. The deadline for submitting applications for LDEQ-ESI is one week before the beginning of each semester or quarter.

Compensation

Selected ESI interns will receive a salary of a minimum of \$14.36/hour, based on the student's level of education, experience and the employment history. Work activities may allow compensation for up to 31 hours per week. Pay increases will be based on LDEQ experience and job performance.

For additional information please contact:

Melvin "Mitch" Mitchell, Administrator

Mailing Address:

Water Permits Division

P. O. Box 4313

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

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602 North Fifth Street

Baton Rouge, La. 70802

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Or visit LDEQ's web site at:

www.deq.louisiana.gov



Water Permits Division

Environmental Scientist Internship

Equal Opportunity Employer

The purpose of the LDEQ Environmental Scientist Internship (LDEQ-ESI) program is to:

- Provide full-time graduate students with practical experience developing LPDES wastewater discharge permits
- Provide the opportunity to gain insightful knowledge of the state water quality environmental regulations
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in environmental issues
- Encourage qualified individuals to pursue environmental careers

The learning objectives are as follows:

- Gain knowledge of the LPDES program and the state water quality regulations
- Apply that knowledge in developing LPDES water discharge permits for major and minor facilities

Eligibility Requirements

A LDEQ-ESI is available to any full-time graduate student who is:

- Enrolled for academic credit at an accredited educational institution. Any college hours or degree must be from a school accredited by one of the following regional accrediting bodies: the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Incorporated; the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools; the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Pursuing an educational program directly related to pollution control or environmental protection for the duration of the Internship (qualifying degree curriculums listed below)
- Recommended by a department chairman, institutional chairman, dean or advanced placement advisor

Applicants must meet each of the requirements listed above, as well as the appropriate requirements for graduate and advanced students listed below.

- College degree in one of the following fields: agronomy, animal science, biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, forestry, atmospheric sciences, soil sciences, physical geography, physics, health sciences, toxicology, environmental sciences, wildlife and fisheries sciences, engineering, health physics, medical physics, nuclear science, or statistics and quantitative methods

Some specific scientific fields that are not qualifying are agriculture, architecture, computer science, food science, horticulture, mathematics, and science education

- 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on a scale of 4.0 at the time the application is due. Specifically, if you are a new graduate student your undergraduate GPA must be 3.0 or higher. If you are a current graduate student, your GPA must be 3.0 or higher
- Currently enrolled in a full-time graduate MS or Ph.D. program or can provide proof of acceptance and enrollment to a graduate or Ph.D. program at the time the Internship is awarded

Please note: The following types of students are not eligible for a LDEQ-ESI:

- Federal employees, including those who are on "leave without pay" status
- Graduate students who will graduate before the LDEQ-ESI is completed (Students who complete their undergraduate studies before the end of an Internship may apply if they are admitted and enrolled in a graduate program.)
- Students enrolled in certificate programs
- High school students
- Undergraduate students
- Students for associate degrees
- Applicable state employee candidate relationships apply

Application Process

Application material and information are available by contacting LDEQ. Graduate students, who are interested in applying for a LDEQ-ESI, must submit three complete application packages (one original and two copies) that include:

- A letter from the applicant requesting acceptance
- A completed SF 10D Application
- A letter of recommendation from the graduate school
- A résumé
- An official college transcript for each school attended

Final acceptance is subject to the hiring practices of LDEQ.

Evaluation and Selection of LDEQ-ESI

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Internships are awarded annually on the basis of LDEQ's request for applications. Applications submitted for a specific period will be reviewed and evaluated by LDEQ.

Such evaluation criteria may include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the following factors:

- Relevancy of the student's academic studies to the LDEQ Water Permits Division
- Relevancy of the student's classroom and or work experience as it relates to the LDEQ
- Leadership skills, written communication skills, and demonstrated success at working well in an office setting
- Potential for success, as reflected by academic records, letters of reference, or other relevant information